

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 385

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Albert Burr McCall, Sr., on the celebration of his eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Albert Burr McCall, Sr., will celebrate his eightieth birthday on July 10, 2009, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, one of the nine children of David Thomas (D.T.) and Amy Manning McCall, Albert McCall, Sr., was born and raised in Carthage; as a child, he spent his summers helping out in the general store his grandparents, Albert and Icie McCall, had founded in 1896 in Flat Rock; and

WHEREAS, D.T. McCall had worked as a salesman at his parents' general store; using a horse and buggy and selling door-to-door, he bought and sold produce and other goods throughout Smith County; and

WHEREAS, D.T. McCall brought the first electrical appliances to Carthage and showcased them in a local bank, and in the late 1930s he bought a corner lot on the town square and opened his own furniture and appliance store; and

WHEREAS, Albert McCall graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture, and he continued his education at the University of Missouri, from which he earned a Master's degree in Animal Nutrition in 1951; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the University of Missouri, he taught agriculture for a year at Winterset High School in Winterset, Iowa, and in 1952 he answered his country's call to duty, serving as a Second Lieutenant and forward observer during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, he was wounded by an explosion from an enemy round and discharged in 1954, having earned the rank of First Lieutenant by that time; Mr. McCall then returned to Iowa, where he taught agriculture to World War II veterans at Boone High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCall also resumed his education, entering a doctoral program at Iowa State University, and during that time he worked five different jobs to support himself; and

WHEREAS, while living in Boone, Albert McCall was introduced to Virginia Doran by a mutual friend; nine months after making her acquaintance, Mr. McCall married Miss Doran, and they spent a summer in Europe for their honeymoon, visiting seventeen countries over the course of their sojourn; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. McCall relocated to Carthage, where he bought a stake in his father's furniture and appliance business; Virginia McCall attended Tennessee Technological University, from which she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics in 1958; and

WHEREAS, possessed of a keen business mind, Albert McCall learned in 1958, that a local cheese company was changing its manufacturing process, and that the seventeen hundred dairy farmers who supplied the company with milk would need new industrial refrigerators to meet the new standards for cheese production; and

WHEREAS, in neighboring North Carolina, he also learned, a change in state law would make a great number of such refrigerators suddenly available at a reasonable cost; over the course of several trips, Albert McCall brought one thousand of the refrigeration units back to Tennessee, filling them all with South Carolina peaches for a little additional profit; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mr. McCall discovered another lucrative opportunity: a company in Akron, Ohio, had no need for five hundred Korean War surplus commercial electric ranges, which were all but useless in a state where restaurants and private individuals alike used natural gas rather than electricity for cooking and heating; in Tennessee, on the other hand, where the Tennessee Valley Authority provided electricity cheaply and conveniently, Mr. McCall found that various schools in the State wanted and needed the ranges. The school systems saved money buying his ranges, while he earned a tidy profit; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, after a precipitous decline in oil prices, a great many would-be Saudi Arabian condominium owners, once flush with oil money, could no longer afford to buy the household furnishings they had ordered just months before; the excess goods had been warehoused in Houston and put up for auction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McCall, always in search of a sound business opportunity, purchased and shipped thirty-seven truck loads of the furnishings to sell in Tennessee; once again, both he and his customers benefitted from Mr. McCall's sharp eye for business; and

WHEREAS, in addition to prosperity, Albert McCall gained a measure of celebrity as the result of his success in the furniture and appliance business; for twenty years, he advertised his wares on the "Ralph Emery Show," which commanded eighty percent of the television market share in its early morning time slot on Nashville's WSMV television; and

WHEREAS, so popular were Mr. McCall's live commercials that WSMV used them as promotions for Mr. Emery's morning show, an interesting broadcasting turnabout; thanks to D.T. McCall and Sons and the show's easygoing host, the "Ralph Emery Show" enjoyed the largest lead-in audience to NBC's "The Today Show" in the entire country; and

WHEREAS, Albert McCall has built his furniture and appliance concern into the forty-ninth largest in the United States, according to *Home Furnishings Daily*; the magazine also ranked D.T. McCall and Sons number one in profit per dollar of sales in the nation; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to the American ideals of freedom and personal responsibility, Albert McCall is a contributor to the Republican Party, which best upholds those ideals in his estimation; and

WHEREAS, Albert McCall has been most fortunate to enjoy the loving companionship of his wife, Virginia, and the couple's blessed union has produced two children, Menda and Albert McCall, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Menda, an advertising agent, and her husband, Howard Holmes, who owns an energy consulting business, have two children, Monica and Derek; both Albert McCall, Jr., and his wife, Beth, have joined the family business, and they have two children, Alex and Katie; and

WHEREAS, Albert and Virginia McCall are faithful members of First Baptist Church in Carthage, and the couple still enjoy traveling, just as they did on their European honeymoon; and

WHEREAS, as fine a citizen as any Tennessean could hope to find among the people of this State, Albert McCall, Sr., is most deserving of all the praise and well-wishes his eightieth birthday will no doubt bring him; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Albert Burr McCall, Sr., on the celebration of his eightieth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.